

# Residents Demand Slowdown

Residents of the neighborhood around the intersection of Rhododendron Drive and Hemlock St., angered because of danger posed by speeding traffic on Rhododendron, asked the Florence City Council Monday night to do something to slow traffic.

Wilbur Ternyik's, whose 5-year-old son was struck by a car in front of their home March 6, brought the council a "message from my son," which turned out to be a childish drawing of Matt, an oncoming car and a stop sign. "Matt thought he (the driver) should have stopped," Ternyik said.

"Many of us have been complaining for some time about traffic along the street," Ternyik told the council. "There are dump trucks whizzing along at 45 to 50 miles per hour every day, all day long. We've been expecting to see one of our children flattened."

Ternyik said the driver of the car, Lee Blalock, 21, said he was going 35 mph at the time of the accident, "but I'd guess he left skid marks for 80 feet."

Blalock was cited for failure to maintain reasonable control of a vehicle and fined \$27 in Municipal Court.

The Ternyik boy received outpatient treatment at Western Lane Hospital for head injuries and returned home. His mother says x-rays show the lad has a crack in his skull, in addition to facial lacerations and numerous bruises.

"We've got a freeway there, the city's maintaining a traffic hazard," Ternyik said. "We are not blaming the police. They can't stay there all the time and when they do park there with the radar going, drivers slow down until the car leaves and then speed up again."

City Manager Don Dougherty said the city is projecting opening 9th St. from where it presently ends near Highway 101 through to Coast Guard Road on a meandering line. "This will divert a lot of the traffic headed for the dump and Greentrees and relieve the pressure on Rhododendron Drive," he pointed out.

Mayor Paul Geuy said the police will step up patrols of the street and that warning signs will be erected.

Another resident of the area, Dale Collins, said it might be necessary to add another police car and patrolman to the city force. "We're getting big enough we need more police."

The council unanimously

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